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John Guy Lofton Collection

MUM00272

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Summary Information](#)

[Biographical Note](#)

[Scope and Contents Note](#)

[Administrative Information](#)

[Access Restrictions](#)

[Collection Inventory](#)

[Box 1](#)

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Open for research. This collection is stored at an off-site facility. Researchers interested in using this collection must contact Archives and Special Collections at least two business days in advance of their planned visit.

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository

University of Mississippi Libraries

Creator

Lofton, John Guy, 1832-1862

Title

John Guy Lofton Collection

ID

MUM00272

Date

1860-1863

Extent

1.0 Linear feet 1 box

General Physical Description note

28 items.

Language of Materials

English

Abstract

Twenty-eight letters, from 1860-1863, arranged chronologically in one box. Mainly correspondence from Mississippian John Guy Lofton, serving with Confederate forces in Virginia, to his wife and family

back in Mississippi.

Preferred Citation

John Guy Lofton Collection (MUM00272). The Department of Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi.

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Guy Lofton served in the Army of Northern Virginia, Company H, 11th Mississippi Regiment during the American Civil War. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31, 1862 and died the following June. He is buried in Hampton National Cemetery in Hampton, Virginia.

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Twenty-eight letters, from 1860-1863, arranged chronologically in one box. Mainly correspondence from Mississippian John Guy Lofton, serving with Confederate forces in Virginia, to his wife and family back in Mississippi. Transcriptions available.

Spellings and punctuation are as they appear in the originals.

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Publication Information

University of Mississippi Libraries 2005

Revision Description

Updated and EAD encoded by Susan Ivey, 2013. Finding aid updated by Abigail Norris, March 2020.

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Source of Collection

Collection donated by Paul M. Swain and Margaret Exyah Swain.

Processing Information

Processed by University of Mississippi Department Special Collections Staff . EAD encoded finding aid begun September 2005.

Alternative Formats

A portion of the John Guy Lofton Collection has been digitized and is included in the Digital Collection [Civil War Archive \(University of Mississippi\)](#).

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Box 1

1.1 May 10, 1860. Letter from S.W. Clark to his mother regarding his health.

1.2 May 13, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding his doubt of a battle at Harper's Ferry but predicting a possible battle on the Potomac and discussing religious life in camp. Written from Camp Davis, Linchburge, Virginia.

1.3 June 4, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding destruction of RR bridges to prevent Union troop movements, an outbreak of measles, and the loneliness of picket guard. Written from Harpers Ferry.

1.4 June 12, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding a large number of measles cases in his camp, and predicting either a speedy peace or a major conflagration. Written from Harpers Ferry.

1.5 June 23, 1861. Letter from T B Clark to his father regarding lack of letters from friends. Written from Camp Barkdel, "Obine C'o Ten".

1.6 June 23, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding marching orders, soldiers too ill to march, religious life in camp, the probability of a Union declaration of war, and a sudden death in the Tennessee regiment. Written from Winchester, [Virginia].

1.7 July 8, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife reporting a death from typhoid fever, the diet in camp, and troop movements. Written from Winchester, [Virginia].

1.8 July 13, 186[1?]. Letter from [H. A. Stephens] to John Guy Lofton's wife teasing her about all of the women in Virginia and how much they like her husband. Written from Winchester, Virginia.

1.9 July 15, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife with postscript added by A N Lofton discussing health and dietary matters and the beauty of the landscape where they are camped. Written from Winchester, Virginia.

1.10 July 18, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing troop movements, troop and artillery numbers, and Lofton's duty to defend his homeland. Written from Winchester, Virginia.

1.11 July 28, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing his recent serious illness, his hopes for a furlough home to visit, battles, figures on killed and wounded, Sherman, and the University Greys. Written from Manassas Junction, Virginia.

1.12 Sept 7, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing his recovering health, Confederate advances to within sight of Washington, DC, heavy losses in Lofton's brigade, and his doubt for the possibility of a furlough. Written from Manassas Junction, Virginia.

Sept 20, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing the death of Wm, J Harris, Lee's defeat of Reynolds and Rosincrantz, sinking of Union boats on the Potomac. Written from Camp Jones near Manassas Junction, Virginia.

1.14 Oct 11, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing camp life. Written from Camp Fisher near

Dumfries, Virginia.

1.15 Oct 20, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife complaining of not hearing from her, lack of sufficient warm clothing and blankets, and discussing an attack on batteries, capture of two Union boats, religious life and wickedness in camp, and admonishing her to raise their children in a righteous manner. Written from Camp Fisher near Dumfries, Virginia.

1.16 Oct 27 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing his trip to Fredericksburg, VA, and his receipt of the daguerreotypes she sent, stating that if he falls in battle his blood will wash their countenances. Last part of letter is missing. Written from Camp Fisher near Dumfries Virginia.

1.17 Dec 8, 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing the lack of possibility of a furlough, a deadly pneumonia outbreak, and eight Union gunboats below their encampment. Written from Camp Fisher, Virginia.

1.18 Dec 12th 1861. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing incendiary bombardment of Charleston, SC, possible peace negotiations, and health issues in camp. Written from Camp Fisher, Virginia.

1.19 Jan 8, 1862. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing an unconfirmed report of Gen. McLelland's death, the impossibility of a furlough until his term expires in April, unpassable road conditions, financial matters. Written from Camp Fisher, Virginia.

1.20 Feb 21, 1862. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife discussing a Confederate defeat at Ft Donelson, coming to Okolona, MS, in April, his three-year reenlistment, plans to form a Chickasaw regiment, naming the new baby. Written from Camp Fisher, Virginia.

1.21 March 6th 1862. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding food rationing "plenty of beef but nothing else" because of road conditions, expiration of his term in 35 days, Confederate reverses. Last part of letter is missing. Written from Camp Fisher, Virginia.

1.22 March 17, 1862. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding the Confederate loss of strategic advantage due to not pressing the Union when they had the opportunity. Written from Camp Barto near Fredricksburg, Virginia.

1.23 March 31, 1862. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding new recruits, reorganization, troop locations, plans to be home by May 1st unless the route is cut off by Union troops. Written from Camp Barto near

Fredricksburg, Virginia.

1.24 April 29, 1862. Letter from A N Lofton to his mother, sisters, and brothers regarding not being able to return home until the war's end because of a conscript law passed by the Confederate Congress and the close location of opposing armies on the Yorktown peninsula. Written from Camp Yorktown.

1.25 June 14th 1862. Letter from S W Clark to his father regarding the Battle of Chickamauga, the high price of consumer goods, and instructing his father to sell Clark's horse if his parents need money. Written from Camp Griffith near Richmond, Virginia.

1.26 May 23, 1863. Letter from S.A.J. Clark to his father regarding a Memphis newspaper report naming killed and wounded; also mentions Jackson, MS, and Vicksburg. Written from "Camp near Jackson".

1.27 December 8 1863. Letter from George. D. Lofton to his sister regarding orders to rejoin his regiment. Written from Camp [Chickasaha] Bridge.

1.28 Undated. Letter from John Guy Lofton to his wife regarding the importance troops put on receiving letters from home and becoming accustomed to the sounds of canon fire.

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)
